(b) the details of the estimated cotton crop production in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Advisory Board are not directly concerned with increasing the production of. cotton in Andhra Pradesh and other States of the Country. However, the Cotton Corporation of India, through price and market support, is encouraging farmers to improve the cotton production in the country,

(b) Final estimates of production of cotton for the crop year 1986-87 are not yet due from various States, including Andhra Pradesh. As such, it will be too early t_D give the estimated cotton crop production in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1987.

Damage of Groundnut Crop due to Leaf Webber Pest in Andhra Pradesh

2785. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the leaf webber pest is severe on standing groundnut crop in Rayalaseema districts (Chittoor, Ananthapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah) of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the loss during the last three years district-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA); (a) No, Sir. No severe incidence of leaf webber on standing groundnut crop has been reported in Rayalaseema districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central Assistance to states for drinking water Drought Prone Areas

2786. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE! be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to. provide assistance to States for drinking water in the drought-prone areas;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl RAMANAND YADAV); (a) and (b) Provision of drinking. water is a State subject. Projects for providing safe drinking water to rural areas including drought prone areas are planned, formulated and implemented by the States under the State Sector MNP. Th_e Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Special-arrangements for supply of drinking water in the drought prone areas are also made by the State Governments. Th_e State Governments approach the Central Government for allocation of additional assistance in the event of drought conditions resulting in shortage of drinking water.

(c) During 1986-87 a sum of Rs. 17. 60 crores has been released under ARWSP for the State of Andhra Pradesh as a whole. There is no earmarking of ARWSP funds for drought prone areas separately. To implement pilot project activities under the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management in Kurnool district, a sum of Rs. 2. 06 crores has been released during 1986-87. A sum of Rs. 10. 75 crores for 1986-87 and Rs. 2. 45 $crore_s$ for 1987-88 has been approved as Advance Plan

Assistance for rural water supply on account of scarcity conditions in Andhra Pradesh. The allocations to States/UTs under ARWSP for 1987-88 have not yet been finalised.

Service Conditions of. the Workers of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

2787. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the serviceconditions of the workers in theKrishi Vigyan Kendras in differentStates alongwith their wages rates;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for better service rules and wages for these workers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE' IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are, being implementing basically by three implementing agencies in the States namely: (i) State Agricultural Universities; (ii) ICAR Research In-stitues; and (hi) a few selected voluntary organisations. Though the scheme on Krishi Vigyan Kendra is sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the service conditions for the staff of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. are governed by the service conditions of the implementing agencies. The staff appointed under the scheme, whether technical or non-technical are entitled to the specified grades of the respective implementing agencies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National River Belt

2788. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to bring in the national belt of the rivers of the country, especially in the Southern region, as suggested by the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this direction to augment and speed up the work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The peninsular component of the national perspective plan for water resources development, which envisages the transfer of surplus waters to deficit areas, is under study. The work has been a focus to develop some specific proposals during the VII Plan for further consideration and action.

Disaster Management Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2789. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to sanction a sum of Rs. 15 crores to implement the Disaster Preparedness Programme in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) In response to the Government of India's request to the